

MR. PROVOST: Thank you. My name is Craig Provost, and I moved to Utah a couple of years ago to enjoy the beautiful landscapes and clean air but found out that we have a problem out here with particulates in the air. My wife has some breathing problems and must use oxygen at night to help her sleep. I am from Ft. Arthur, Texas, site of one of the largest refineries in the country where the Keystone Pipeline was supposed to go and ship oil. I know that's not coal, but I lived in a very -- raised in a very dirty industry, the energy industry and the oil, and I'm aware that all energy production can be dirty. I worked in a power plant for five years. I'm very aware that it's not coal mining that's the problem, but as the previous gentleman said, that it is the coal power production that gets most of the bad stuff in the air. And that needs to be worked on. I was very surprised to see oil refineries right here in North Salt Lake, which are probably contributing to some of the pollution, as y'all say, up here versus down south. However, anything going into the air is a problem for our environment. And although coal mining has been important as income for many of you good, hardworking people, we should focus on helping y'all shift the skills at these high schools and junior highs that the man just mentioned to teach the new generation new jobs, because coal does appear to be going out. Not because it's not there, but because of the conscientiousness of those that are concerned about climate change. Now, they can shift their skills to many different areas, including the new solar power, whatever, but being more environmentally-friendly and even the tourist industry, as they said. So Utah has plenty of sunshine and has the potential to provide energy without the harmful effects on the environment that coal has been getting the rap for. The federal coal leasing program has allowed our public lands to be used for commercial profit at historically low prices that have not kept up with the actual value of our land and our resources. More importantly, the federal lands managed by the BLM should not be used for the benefit of commercial enterprises at the expense of our environment and our health. It's also important to note that many of the properties being considered are so close or adjacent to our beautiful national parks, which are the source of millions of dollars to the tourism industry of our state. So please ask the BLM to consider continuing to look at these -- this moratorium, but do consider that the coal miners do need their income. Thank you for your consideration. (Applause.)